IUR

International UFO Reporter

September/October 1992
Volume 17, Number 5

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO. 2D-UFOB-2-56	Part One
Flt 2-D, 4602d AISS		PAGE 2 OF 15 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Earl D. Holwadel. 1 witness.

Address: Office of Resident Auditor, Greenville AFB, Miss.

Age: 25

UNCLASSIFIED

Occupation: Officer, USAF; Auditor, Pilot

Education: B. S., Business Administration; Graduate, Pilot Training, 1954

Qualifications: SOURCE has been on active duty for approximately three years and on flying status for approximately three years.

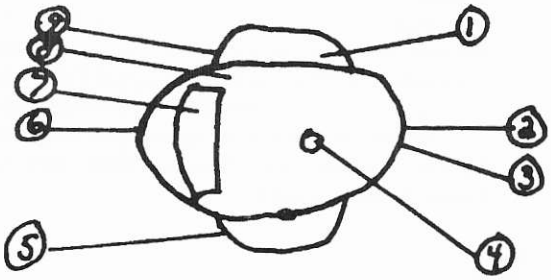
II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to he highly intelligent. He was completely sincere and answered all questions frankly. SOURCE indicated that, although subjected to the ridicule that often accompanies reports of this type, he felt it his duty to report the sighting as completely as possible. SOURCE's estimates of measurements may be considered fairly reliable as indicated by his estimates of the relative size of known objects. In view of SOURCE's military background, information may be considered reliable.

III. SOURCE's DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE indicated that on 22 May 1956 at approximately 2305 CST while flying in the front seat of a T33 aircraft 50 Knots northwest of Monroe, La. (Georef FJNC 5329), his attention was attracted to a bright object in the easterly portion of the sky. SOURCE's course at time of sighting was 050° at 18,000 feet. At 2315 the object was again noted apparently due east, and the decision was made to investigate, since the possibility of the object being a planet or star appeared doubtful. SOURCE stated he "peeled off" to the south and moved in trail of object, which at that time appeared to be in the southeast, (See sketch, Incl #1, path and movement of object). The object appeared to be a great distance away from the aircraft, when suddenly it came straight at the observer at a rapid rate of speed. SOURCE stated they crossed the rear of the object, experienced no wash, and moved south of it. Object moved away and then returned at high speed on a westerly course. SOURCE stated they cruised in front of the object and noticed odd and extremely bright lighting which did not resemble lighting of any known aircraft. Shape of the object could not be clearly determined and no wash was apparent on object's west side. SOURCE said maneuverability of object was fantastic and at no time did it change its positional attitude in relationship to the aircraft. SOURCE stated that his aircraft passed under the "nose" of object at a distance of approximately 75 yards and on a heading of 330°, at which time an intensely bright white light flashed from object lighting up canopy of his aircraft. SOURCE stated object appeared to be squat, bulky and cross-shaped. It appeared to be shorter than a C47 and wider than a C47. There was no visible wing span. Longest dimension of the bulk of object appeared to be 30 to 40 feet, (Incl #2, sketch of object). SOURCE saw no clear outline of object other than the bulk or dome which was positioned at the center of the cross. It was from this dome that the bright white light appeared. In addition to the white light SOURCE noted one red light, resembling an aircraft running light on top of the dome. However, the brightest light eminated from the high windshield type observation glass in the front of the dome. SOURCE obtained a good view of underneath side

Incl #2. Top view of object, looking down. (Source's sketch)

Legend:

Pt. 1. Extension on both sides of object not over six feet from bulk of object.
Pt. 2. Rear of object.
Pt. 3. No visible structure from the rear of object.
Pt. 4. One steady red running light, of normal A/C intensity.
Pt. 5. More than one white light 2 to 3 feet from bulk of object.
Pt. 6. Front of object.
Pt. 7. Bright light, white-solid of very high intensity.
Pt. 8. Bulk of object egg shaped.
Pt. 9. More than one white light 2 to 3 feet from bulk of object.



A Visit to Blue Book in 1956

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

Editor:
Jerome Clark

Associate Editor:
Nancy Clark

Contributing Editors:
Bill Chalker
George M. Eberhart
Richard F. Haines
Richard Hall
Kevin D. Randle
Jenny Randles
Mark Rodeghier
Chris Rutkowski
Donald R. Schmitt
Jennie Zeidman

J. Allen Hynek
1910 - 1986

It is the persistence of the UFO reports, and the contents of those reports, that constitute the UFO phenomenon; it is this phenomenon that must be studied and its validity judged independently of any hypothesis of its origin. To do otherwise is simply not honest science.

INSIDE BUILDING 263: A VISIT TO BLUE BOOK, 1956 *by Walter N. Webb* 3

DOES THE ETH MAKE SENSE? *by Michael D. Swords* 6

A LOONEY A LOOK: CROP CIRCLES IN WESTERN MANITOBA *by Chris Rutkowski* 9

AUSTRALIAN ABDUCTION RESEARCH 1990-1992 *by Keith Basterfield* 13

WHY THE PRESS ACTS THAT WAY *by Don Berliner* 16

LETTERS 19

International UFO Reporter (ISSN 0720-174X) is published bimonthly by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Copyright © 1992 by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Third class postage paid at Glenview, Illinois.

Address all editorial correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, Jerome Clark, editor, 612 North Oscar Avenue, Canby, Minnesota 56220.

Address all subscription correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

The *International UFO Reporter* is a benefit publication mailed to Associates of the Center for a contribution of $25.00 or more. Foreign Associates add $5.00 for delivery. All amounts in U.S. funds. Other publications also available for contributors of larger amounts. For details, write to the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, USA. **Postmaster:** Send Form 3579 to CUFOS, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

Inside Building 263: A Visit to Blue Book, 1956

BY WALTER N. WEBB

Walter N. Webb, who worked as an astronomer most of his professional life, is a longtime UFO investigator.

Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio has played a pivotal role in UFO history for at least 45 years. The base, of course, was the reputed final destination for the Roswell wreckage and its unearthly crew as well as the depository for other rumored UFO crash/retrievals. It was also the home for 22 years of the Air Force's UFO projects, most notably Project Blue Book. Few ufologists ever penetrated the inner walls of Blue Book. Jennie Zeidman, former student and research assistant to J. Allen Hynek, recalled her visits to the project in the March/April 1991 issue of *IUR*. During the early 1950s she accompanied Hynek about once a month on his trips to Blue Book. Leonard H. Stringfield was another civilian researcher able to get inside the corridors of the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright Pat. Though Blue Book chief Capt. George T. Gregory was away during the August 1957 visit, Stringfield managed to interview Spencer Whedon, head of ATIC Information Services. He has recounted the experiences in his books *Inside Saucer Post . . . 3-0 Blue* (1957) and *Situation Red, the UFO Siege!* (1977). I have kept my own discussion with Capt. Gregory confidential for 36 years. At the time I had promised not to reveal the contents of our 45-minute conversation to any "reporters." But now I believe the era of nondisclosure is long past.

Project Blue Book

First, a brief review of the early years of Project Blue Book will provide the proper setting for that period of "official" investigation. I put quotation marks around "official" because the Roswell revelations now furnish ample evidence for the existence of an ultrasecret UFO study coexisting with Blue Book. Whatever its initial intent, the latter program appears to have become a convenient public-relations cover for the true investigation. From the autumn of 1951 through 1952, an upgraded Project Grudge and its successor, Blue Book, attempted to conduct an objective probe of UFO reports under Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt's guidance. Following the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel (January 1953) and its recommendations to debunk UFO sightings, Blue Book's staff was reduced and the effort directed toward explaining the reports by all means possible rather than investigating them scientifically. Capt. Gregory, the fifth low-rank individual to hold the Blue Book post since its formation early in 1952, became a "zealous UFO debunker," according to David M. Jacobs in his *The UFO Controversy in America* (1975). Gregory had replaced Capt. Charles Hardin in April 1956. He continued as project chief for two and a half years, until October 1958. "During his tenure," Jacobs reported, "he made the most strenuous efforts of any Blue Book project leader to identify UFO reports regardless of the information they contained." In order to help reduce the unidentifieds, Gregory dumped many quality sightings into the "insufficient data" category, including, Jacobs writes, "some of the most interesting low-level and close-encounter reports." Assisted by a biased, forced system of classifying the incoming sighting reports, the captain managed to decrease the unidentified percentage by the end of 1956 to the smallest yet: only two percent. And 1957 and 1958 ended with the lowest total of unknowns so far—1.4 and 1.6 percent, respectively—even though the former year produced a whopping 1,006 sightings. (It was Gregory's news release which attributed the famous November 1957 Levelland, Texas, "flying egg"/multiple automobile electrical failures to "ball lightning" and "wet electrical circuits."

In my young life I recorded five important ufological events which took place during the first half of 1956:

(1) In February I read Ruppelt's just-published *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*.

(2) In March I studied one of the few copies available of the full 316-page *Project Blue Book Special Report 14*.

(3) In May I completed writing a 100-page college paper on UFOs. It became front-page news in three northeastern Ohio cities.

(4) On June 8 I viewed the Greene-Rouse docudrama *Unidentified Flying Objects*, released in May.

(5) Just six days later I was sitting in a chair across from Capt. Gregory at ATIC. Barely a week and a half after my college graduation, I found myself at Wright-Patterson AFB, the guest of my uncle who happened to be a civilian intelligence analyst at ATIC (now Foreign Technology Division). The purpose of my visit was twofold: to look for possible job opportunities at the base and to meet the Blue Book chief. My uncle Don Webb had offered to take me on a tour of ATIC next time I came to Dayton for a visit. He also knew of my interest in the UFO subject and promised to

look up Capt. Gregory if he were available. The following account of my chat with the captain is drawn from my diary. After I returned to my uncle's apartment following the interview, I wrote down all the important points that I could recall while they were fresh in my mind and later transferred the notes to my journal. Wright-Pat, known locally as "The Field," is an enormous complex of buildings, labs, and airstrips occupying nearly 13 square miles—most of the territory between the town of Fairborn and the northeast outskirts of Dayton. In 1956 the base employed 27,000 military and civilian personnel and was the headquarters of the Air Materiel Command (now Air Force Logistics Command). Even in 1990 Wright-Patterson employed 35,000—far more personnel than at the Pentagon or any other Air Force base. Its 1990 payroll: $900 million. In addition to its logistics role, the base is the home of numerous other USAF research and development agencies. A *partial* current listing of tenants includes the Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratories, Air Force Medical Center, Armstrong Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Air Force Institute of Technology, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, Foreign Technology Division, the 200-acre Air Force Museum, 906th Tactical Fighter Group, 2750th Air Base Wing, 4950th Test Wing, and many other units. It readily can be seen from this list that Wright-Pat would indeed be the logical place to receive UFO wreckage along with related bodies.

The visit

After I checked the job listings in the base employment office, it was time for me to meet Don. First, I filled out a pass, showed it to a guard, and then passed through the gate into a restricted area. Ahead of me stood an old barracks-style building with a series of wings, surrounded by a high fence. This was Building 263—ATIC.

ATIC, according to a posted description back at the employment office, was "responsible for the evaluation of potential enemy nations to wage aerial warfare against the United States." My uncle defined its mission as "preventing technological surprise by evaluating data on enemy aircraft, guided missiles, and anything else that flies." Captured enemy aircraft (and UFOs?) frequently ended up here for a thorough inspection and analysis. (When Russian pilot Viktor Belenko defected in a supersecret MiG-25 Foxbat in 1976, FTD disassembled and scrutinized the plane before it was returned to the Soviet Union.) ATIC, of course, also was the agency in charge of the government's UFO inquiry (or at least the low-level version of the project).

At the ATIC entrance desk I filled out a file card and received another pass, a red tag which admitted me to both halls and offices with an authorized escort. (A black tag permitted access to halls only.) Don was called to the desk, and after stopping at a number of offices including my uncle's, we entered a room labeled Air Science Division. To the left of the entrance, separated from the rest of the room by a low wall of files, was the Aerial Phenomena Section (Project Blue Book). The spartan space contained two desks, a small table, a bookcase, and the file cabinets which extended across almost the entire width of the room. Gregory wasn't in, but when we returned at 3:30, he was there. In my journal I described the captain as a "short swarthy man with a little mustache." The UFO project proved to be astoundingly unimposing and consisted simply of Gregory and an assistant. (Blue Book once had a nine—or 10—person staff and a number of paid consultants.)

Don knew Gregory and had told him of my interest in UFOs. The captain told me to pull up a chair. My uncle left us alone. Immediately Gregory launched into what sounded like a standard briefing about how UFOs turn out to be various conventional objects and phenomena, with an emphasis on balloons. (Spencer Whedon, in his 1957 interview with Stringfield, followed much the same line.) He showed me a map of the United States, along with the paths of research balloons on it, and indicated points along the tracks where the balloons had caused some UFO reports. Just a few days ago, he said, a "saucer" was reported over Wright-Pat, but it was identified as a balloon.

I was shown the "crackpot" file and a thick report—complete with a drawing of a flying saucer on the ground in color and an elaborate map of the landing site—put together, according to Gregory, by someone who had seen a science-fiction movie and created the story from that.

The Blue Book chief proudly asserted that the project had found no evidence that UFOs were real. He pulled out a copy of *Special Report 14* to show me Blue Book's findings. Pointing in the report to drawings of the July 1948 Chiles-Whitted "cigar," Capt. Gregory claimed that this supposed unidentified object was later discovered to have been a B-36. (Nowhere in my files could I find such an official explanation for this classic airline pilots' sighting. Years later, in the early 1960s, the Air Force did adopt both Hynek's and Menzel's meteor hypothesis for this sighting.)

So far I played dumb while the captain did the talking. Gregory obviously was trying hard to convince me that genuine UFOs didn't exist. Of course I was interested in the unsolved cases, not the explainable ones. When I finally managed to interrupt with some simple questions about the unknowns, Gregory seemed confused and surprised and either dodged my questions completely or answered evasively. Several times he admitted frankly, "You're putting me on the spot," and he appeared frustrated. But the chief seemed determined to stick to the party line, to prove to me that UFOs were explainable or simply nonsensical. He motioned toward a shelf full of saucer books and stressed that they all were, in his word, "sensationalized." The captain even included Ruppelt's book in this category, saying that the respected former Blue Book head had to sensationalize his book in order for it to sell. I responded that I regarded Ruppelt's treatment of the UFO problem as objective and factual. How could Gregory explain some of the high-quality unknown cases in his book? He sputtered and offered his by now familiar answer: "You're putting me on the spot."

What did the captain think about the new Hollywood documentary *UFOs*? "Sensationalized," he retorted. I said I was impressed by the 1950 Montana and 1952 Utah film clips (especially the former), declassified and shown publicly for the first time in color as part of the black-and-white documentary. The film images in both clips appeared to have angular size; they were not the "pinpoints of lights" referred to in the Air Force fact sheets. Gregory replied that the two film clips were "blown up" and the shapes of the objects were attributed to reflections. I countered that sunlight reflections should have varied along the broad path angle covered by the two rapidly moving Montana objects, if they had been ordinary aircraft. Instead the objects remained steady in brilliance. Moreover, if the Montana objects weren't birds, balloons, *or* aircraft as stated in the initial official conclusions, what *were* these objects? (The eventual official conclusions for the Montana and Utah films: reflections from two aircraft and possible birds, respectively. Interestingly, the Condon Committee later changed the former to unidentified but concurred with the bird explanation for the latter.)

Earlier I had suggested to Gregory that he stop me if I were putting him on the spot. I didn't wish to cause him to violate security. When I mentioned this again, he simply shrugged.

As Gregory flipped through the pages of *Special Report 14*, I told him I had read it, thought it was too statistical, and felt that it omitted some of the best evidence for UFOs. (Even my uncle had been unsuccessful in prying loose the full report from the then Blue Book chief Capt. Hardin. I finally read a rented copy obtained by another researcher through his Congressman.)

Appearing aggravated by this time, Gregory turned to my uncle, who had come into the office to urge us to break off the discussion since his ride was waiting. We had been at it for 45 minutes, and it was 15 minutes past closing time. "He can't be convinced," the captain declared to Uncle Don. As Gregory and I got up from our chairs, our final exchange went something like this:

Webb: The project ought to be expanded and staffed fulltime by scientific experts . . .

Gregory: We have scientists working for us all over the U.S. [To my knowledge Hynek was the only *paid* scientific UFO consultant to Blue Book at that time.]

Webb: . . . and tracking stations.

Gregory: We have.

Webb: You have?

The captain replied that the Air Force had spectroscopic cameras, telescopes, and other instruments available to spot UFOs. (Blue Book tried using spectroscopic cameras for one year, in 1953–54, but they failed to resolve even bright light sources. The cameras, minus their diffraction grids, remained in operation at the bases.)

As I was about to leave, Gregory said he wished that he had time to show me some of the files. In a hurry to exit the building, Don suggested that maybe I could return the following morning. Gregory paused an instant and then said he'd be too busy; some scientists were coming in. This remark surprised me, and I doubt that he would have uttered it if he hadn't been so keyed up at this point. "We have some sightings in the files that would make your eyes pop out!"

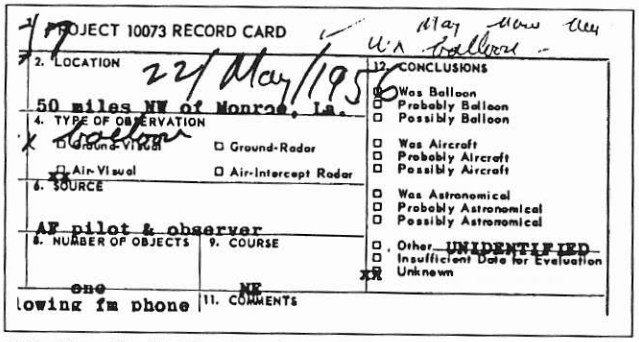
Don's ride was waiting in the parking lot. I was introduced to the driver and another passenger who happened to be the head of the Air Science Division (which included Blue Book) and one of my uncle's close friends, a Dr. Miley.

When Don returned home from work the next day, he informed me that Capt. Gregory had worried about our conversation, fearing that I might reveal our discussion, along with any inadvertent slip-ups, to a reporter. I told my uncle to reassure Gregory that I would keep the interview private. And, of course, I would do nothing to jeopardize Uncle Don's career.

A POSTSCRIPT

In preparing this article, I discovered a letter from my late uncle. Writing in February 1958, Don referred to the infamous *Armstrong Circle Theater* CBS television program of the previous January 22. On it NICAP's Donald Keyhoe had been pitted against the Air Force's Whedon. During the live telecast Keyhoe's mike was cut off when he departed from his prepared script. Whedon turned out to be my uncle's boss, and apparently I had met him during my visit. Don recalled: "You met Spencer Whedon, the man who presented the Air Force point of view, when . . ." He concluded his letter thus: "Now that space travel is accepted as a very real possibility for us, perhaps there'll be less scoffing of the idea that saucers are of interplanetary origin. Frankly, I don't know; but it seems reasonable to assume that many other planets are inhabited and it would be very surprising if some of these were not at least 100 years ahead of us technologically." Don died in 1980 at the age of 80.

Until now only a very few ufologists knew of my ATIC visit, and they were sworn to confidence. I want to thank these individuals for maintaining their trust over the years. In an upcoming issue of *IUR*, I will share my firsthand recollections of Allen Hynek, especially during our time together in the Sputnik era. ✦


PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

2. LOCATION 22 May 1958

50 miles NW of Monroe, La.

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

X Balloon

☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar

☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

6. SOURCE

AF pilot & observer

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: one

9. COURSE: NE

11. COMMENTS: lowing fm phone

12. CONCLUSIONS

☒ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon

☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft

☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical

☐ Other UNIDENTIFIED
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
XX Unknown

"Unidentified" Blue Book case, 3 weeks before Walter Webb's interview. See cover.

DOES THE ETH MAKE SENSE?

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

Michael D. Swords, Ph.D., professor of natural sciences at Western Michigan University, edits the *Journal of UFO Studies*.

We students of ufology have gotten fairly sophisticated about the frontiers of science over the years. We know, for example, that specialists in SETI—the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence—believe that the galaxy is brimming with intelligent creatures. A perusal of the odds-on-ETI debate indicates that practically the entirety of the knowledgeable scientific community—in other words, that portion of the community that has studied the question—agrees. The frontiers of all the relevant sciences indicate that we have good reason (not proof) for believing so.

Also, the modern technological geniuses have come up with a half dozen or more ways to create "slow boats" which could go between nearby stars in the order of 20 to 40 years' flight time. These designs are *well* within our engineering imaginings. The historians of technology point to the accelerating curves of our own transport and communications history and warn us not to assume that we are somehow nearing the end of what is possible. Our physics geniuses remind us that we have not yet solved the nature of all reality even in its purely physical space-time properties; the universe seems to demand other dimensions within which the physical forces and fields interconnect and ultimately manifest in phenomena. These interconnections outside normal space-time may be one route around the Einsteinian light-speed limitation. Views about "wormholing" objects through space (and even time) have been seriously propounded well outside the fringe literature.

As was stated long ago in the appendix of *Project Grudge*, it was the opinion in 1948 that extraterrestrials on planets around extrasolar stars were probably commonplace and advanced beyond ourselves. This argument, it was said, was defensible on purely statistical grounds (there is a lot of ETI, and on a purely odds argument, about half of it should be advanced, even much advanced, beyond our capabilities). We have agreed about these basic views for 40-odd years, so what is the problem with UFOs as possible manifestations of ETI?

Some individuals have objected to UFOs because they can't walk out of their houses in the morning and bump into one. UFOs are not a concrete commonsense element of everyday life; therefore they do not exist. One can empathize with this feeling, of course; why believe in things that are not landing on the White House lawn? Persons interested in matters of security, however, remind us that any interaction with civilizations potentially hostile, or at least possessing unknown dangers, would *not* take place overtly on the White House lawn if the covert civilization could possibly help it. It is we naive citizens, not used to thinking in these terms, who make invalid "commonsense" conclusions on what UFOs should be doing.

Some individuals reject UFOs because their occupants seem too biologically compatible with us: they look too much like us; they seem at home in our atmosphere. Again we usually find these remarks issuing facilely from persons who are venturing outside their fields and have done little thinking about the issues. Ufology, it turns out, is a field of enormous interdisciplinary complexity, and in a way *none* of us are "in our field" when talking about it. Difficult as it is, all of us, including the author, must put aside our colossal egos and attempt to unravel what we can with humility.

UFO MISBEHAVIOR AND ADVANCED INTELLIGENCES

Most objectors to the ETH cannot get beyond the rudimentary objections just stated (rudimentary in terms of depth of their own knowledge of the relevant sciences and UFO data). We know that this is, in a sense, their, not our, problem and that reasonable counterviews could dissuade them from persisting in their negativity should they choose to educate themselves. There are, however, more knowledgeable objectors. Some researchers, well-versed in UFO lore, find it difficult to come to grips with certain characteristics of the phenomena in ET terms. A few of the more often heard puzzlements:

(1) The sudden appearance and disappearance of discs, as if not requiring travel from point to point by normal means and, consequently, not trackable for long distances by radar and/or independent observers.

(2) A corollary: The specificity of UFO manifestations to just certain persons, even when there is every reason to believe that many other persons should have been able to experience and report the phenomenon.

(3) The ability to return to specific witnesses time and again, apparently regardless of their location, and somewhat regardless of the social circumstances involved.

(4) The "nonsensical" behaviors of discs, occupants seen in or out of craft, and interactions between humans and occupants on the craft.

(5) The "dreamlike" nature of close encounter (of the third and fourth kind) reports.

(6) The "nonsensical" appearance of on-board occupants vis-a-vis biology.

Others could be added, but these are some of the more important difficulties voiced.

From here to there

Let us imagine ourselves forward in our own time-line as a world civilization. Let us, obviously, assume that we do not destroy or irreparably damage the species and that we get ourselves under control in a way that allows sustainable civilizations with enough energy resources (solar-based) that we can continue scientific exploration and technical advancement. What are our current thrusts in such matters?

(1) We are almost obsessed with living forever, of course. Our medical research frantically pursues elimination of the killers, including the genetic flaws. The genome-mapping project is the first planned step in eliminating health-related genetic flaws (so-called negative eugenics), and with that may come the promised breakthrough on the aging process. Though apparently not due to arrive tomorrow, the technological defeat of disease, environmental damage, genetic fault, and aging is well within imagining. Life extremely extended, threatened mostly by tragedies, accidents, or suicides, is well possible. This would almost certainly be a priority for every technical civilization at some stage of its development.

(2) We are fascinated by our own brains. We want to know everything about how they work and what their potential is. We want to know how they fail and how they can be repaired. Some even want to know how they can be manipulated (both physically and psychologically). We are doing all this research right now as fast as the funding will allow. Brain maps are made. Brain chemistry is studied and altered. Specific transplants take place. Psychology, even parapsychology, struggles onward. It seems that we will know a great percentage of all this very soon.

(3) As we pursue intelligence so we pursue artificial intelligence. The computer is advanced, fueled by the vast amount of money it can make for the innovators, and the intense need that high technology has for clever, self-deciding machines. Cleverer people are making these cleverer machines, and though the debate rages as to whether true (flawed? intuitive?) intelligence can ever be reached, some near-representation of it is surely possible. One primary need for the most advanced nearly self-acting machines is in space exploration, where the human astronaut is not there at all, or cannot process the bulk of data quickly enough to make timely decisions.

(4) The big buzz word today is nanotechnology. This is the microminiaturization of machines down, perhaps, into the subcellular and quantum-effects levels. This is not science fiction, as any recent attender of the AAAS or reader of the standard literature can attest. It may allow manipulation of individual atoms in the precise building of microstructures, both mechanically and "simply" for unique structural properties. It may, according to the work of Hal Puthoff and colleagues, allow transfer of information in discrete macrocosmic plasma balls of electrons. The point is that it seems to be happening and it is driven by a strong need to miniaturize devices and create novel materials (for superconductivity, artificial intelligence, strength, and other purposes).

(5) A relatively new buzz word which could connect much of the above is telepresence. In an unsophisticated, currently available way, it is not much more than strapping oneself into a video game using an external video camera and, perhaps, other crude sense stimulators. In an advanced way, it would be a direct mind-to-machine connection allowing the "true" intelligence to experience exactly what the machine would experience if it were sentient. There could also be a complete cycle, of course, allowing the intelligent operator to direct its machine's actions. Combining what we have said about brain science, artificial intelligence (robotics), and nanotechnology (implants), one can readily see the potential in all this.

(6) Lastly for this list, we are obviously interested in space. Our species seems to have a significant percentage of persons who take the basic instinct of curiosity/learning/exploration as highly important. Some would go so far as to say that when we stop this learning-explorative behavior, we will degenerate as a viable life form. Be that as it may, one vast final frontier to which we seem driven is outer space. (One can currently imagine in fact only one other frontier which might rival it for richness: inner space, or phenomena of the mind and spirit.) This exploratory drive will certainly devour the solar system and yearn for the great leap outward. At that time slow boats powered by light beams or nuclear forces may be employed, but new ways may be found. Here will be a civilization dying to remain intellectually and spiritually vital, sitting on the edge of its planetary system with its long lives, robots, nanotechnology, and telepresence, longing for the stimulation of other places, other minds. What will we do?

I suggest that we will go. And I suggest that "they" did.

Assuming that they have invented a way around the immensities of space to make this practical, what would their behavior seem like to us?

Interactions

Such a civilization may have known about us for a long time. Or our current technical activities may have recently given us away. Either way, we probably don't look like a group that anyone would readily invite over for dinner. In military parlance any interactions would be a covert operation aimed at their own security (as a priority) and whatever other goals they may have. We are, after all, a *very* dangerous species which has conquered all other life forms on the planet and hasn't even made peace with itself. Plus we know just enough to be dangerous even to them. (Edward Teller recommended the building of a bomb so big that even the military refused to go along with it. It would have immediately sterilized half the planet had it been set off above

ground in near-earth orbit. It could only be "reasonably" used in deep space. One wonders what he might have had in mind.)

Using its new spacefaring technology, the advanced species might "wormhole-in" a large craft and settle down in the asteroid belt out of detection range. Alternatively, to save energy it might transport nanomachines programmed to build larger structures once it got here. It might map out the planet covertly. With its nanotechnology, it need never be seen. It could monitor anything it wanted to by means of "invisible" microtechnology anywhere it wished to place it. Then it would construct a plan of interaction.

What would this aged civilization want? Direct conquest isn't happening, though it would seem easy to do. Materials and economics seem ridiculous. We have nothing these extraterrestrials couldn't do themselves more easily at home. Conversion to a higher form of galactic spirituality? Well, it's possible that these are missionaries who realize that such conversion would take a program of great subtlety. But I can imagine that it would be the simpler, more essential, need: survival of their own spirit, their own vitality.

Here would be an old world composed of near-immortals. Immortality, as it has been said, is a trap. It gives one too much to risk, so one tends never to risk. When one never risks, one ceases to explore, to learn. One's soul dies. Progress and vitality end. How does one beat the trap? You could give up and commit suicide. You could deny your biotechnology and reshorten your life (sort of a group-decision slow suicide). Or you could try to find safe ways of continuing to explore and grow. One safe way (for a while perhaps) might be in psychic or spiritual exploration, but, depending upon what's there in inner space, that may be more dangerous than outer-space exploration. Or one could find a way of safely exploring (and directly experiencing) outer space.

We can now all piece together a technological scenario in which an ET civilization needs to explore space (and us) and finds a way to do it almost risk-free. With its wormholing or space-bending it can come and go as suddenly and mysteriously as it pleases. With its robotics and nanotechnology, it can achieve whatever monitoring and information retrieval it wishes. With its telepresence it can experience it without personal risk. But it can do all this secretly on its own. Why any display at all?

In a sense the intensive exploration of other worlds, and especially other intelligent species, is a form of vital entertainment for such an effete civilization. The mere cataloging of planetary types, mineralogy, and biological specimens may not be enough. Far more diverting would be the intelligences: how they think, how they interact, how they feel. Academic research and cataloging might not be the goal here either. Interaction, "living within the dynamic other," direct experiences may fuel the need. Our life becomes theirs, the missing element in their survival or zest to continue on. And there may be more.

The concept of a (possibly) benign psychic parasitism referred to above might be insufficient to the desires of the intruding civilization. It may be deemed a poor use of a potential opportunity; that would, after all, be only a manifestation of an elaborate addiction for a group of individuals experiencing isolated experiential rushes. Perhaps a true group involvement would be more of a diversion.

The UFO phenomenon seems to have characteristics that indicate this behavior. It appears in its displays as if it has a plan, but it is not obvious what the plan is. It is more like a game. The game is directed by the game master, and we may be the opponent. Perhaps the game masters are divided into oppositional goals, but perhaps it is a cooperative program to manipulate us as a whole species. A friend of mine has been saying this about the phenomenon for years, and that what the UFO-research community needs is a Game Theoretic approach to the phenomenon, taking into account all the manifested rule changes since at least the Kenneth Arnold era. The prospect of playing a lengthy game with an entire intelligent species (some members more pawns than others) would be a diverting experience indeed. Displays are the coinage of the game, and the rules are that there are few rules.

What may be the rules? The rules are the restrictions placed by the nature of the universe, the level of technology, and the nature of the opponents. They are also the arbitrary restrictions accepted by the game masters themselves. One arbitrary restriction is obvious: one does not display concretely and obviously to the mass species, or one blows the game. Another arbitrary restriction: one doesn't risk destroying the viability of the encountered species for obvious reasons. Restrictions placed by the nature of things seem to include:

(a) The ET technology is not perfect. It makes errors, usually small, possibly large.

(b) Specifically, in its intimate interaction with human beings (as in abductions) it cannot perfectly control the human consciousness and will. The technology seems to employ a creation of the dream-state consciousness (or an analogous state), possibly by the stimulation of brain centers with a repetitive signal (recall that the dream state is a conscious state operating at 4 to 8 cycles per second versus the normal muscle-active states of 8 to 12 and 12 to 20-plus cycles per second). Human brains may differ in their toleration of or control by this technique. This lack of total control probably makes the game more interesting, though dangerous.

(c) Given the danger, the bulk (if not all) of the interacting is probably done via robotics and telepresence. There seem to be some limitations in the effectiveness of this technology as well. Complete knowledge of the human mindscape seems unattainable, and instant decisions by the gray robots seem not always efficient or even forthcoming.

It is because of the technological limitations that some actual real-living ETIs may have to come through the wormholes themselves and manage the technology. Occasionally, under extremely safe circumstances, we may be

continued on page 12

"A LOONEY A LOOK": CROP CIRCLES IN WESTERN MANITOBA

BY CHRIS RUTKOWSKI

Chris Rutkowski, an *IUR* contributing editor, edits *Swamp Gas Journal*. He is an active investigator with the North American Institute for Crop Circle Research (NAICCR).

I had just settled into bed and was planning to forego watching the late news. I was bone-tired, the kind of tired only a parent with an eight-month-old baby can appreciate. It was about 10:30 p.m., Sunday, August 16, 1992.

The phone chirped (telephones don't "ring" anymore). It was Roy Bauer, an associate and good friend who has accompanied me on many an investigation, and vice versa. He told me that a teaser for the news had a story about new crop circles in Manitoba. Film at 11.

Several days earlier he and I had gone with another NAICCR associate to Friedensruh, Manitoba, where we investigated the claims of a crop "triangle" in a pasture surrounded by an electric fence. We had concluded that the unusual grounding marking (UGM) there had been caused by cattle accidentally herded within the fenced area. Still earlier in the summer various NAICCR reps had visited other crop formations closer to Winnipeg; their discoverers and the media had heralded these as communications from space aliens. As soon as we had seen them, we knew they were lodging, a common field effect created by a combination of wind, rain, and weak plant stems.

But the story on the news that night spoke of actual formations: circles with arrows and rings. Now these were more unusual and sounded more like their better-known British cousins.

The North American Institute for Crop Circle Research was formed as a sister group of Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM) in 1990, in response to requests from British cerealogists wanting information about crop circles in North America. We had realized that, though there were a number of North Americans who were independently investigating crop circles, there was no comprehensive gathering of data underway. Furthermore, like most UFO or Fortean groups, UFOROM members had been studying crop circles for decades, long before they were popularized in Britain. Ted Phillips' catalog of physical traces listed many such swirled circles, along with other traces, going back before the turn of the century. These UGMs had been cropping up—pardon the pun—from time to time in North America, sometimes with an associated UFO sighting.

So NAICCR began investigating Canadian crop circles and soliciting information on American cases from other investigators and groups. (The phrase "pulling teeth" comes to mind.) With the cooperation of several researchers, NAICCR has published reports and an annual review of North American UGMs.

UFOs AND UGMs

After Roy called me, I turned on the TV and flipped channels until I found a provincial newscast. Sure enough, there was a short blurb about crop circles near a town named Strathclair. I thought hard about where that was in relation to Winnipeg. I had a funny feeling I was going to be driving a long, long way.

There was little more that could be done that night, so I jotted down a few notes and turned in. Again.

The next morning I drove to work early, fearing that a barrage of phone messages from the media would await me. On the way in, I heard a brief clip of a radio interview with a woman who had observed a UFO at the circle sites. This was a rarity in cerealogy and was a supporting datum for the extraterrestrial hypothesis with regards to crop-circle creation. Colin Andrews would be pleased, I mused.

There were surprisingly few media calls at work, and I dealt with them quickly. Curiously, the local TV networks were not really interested in the new cases. I had hoped to get their help in obtaining aerial videos of the formations, since NAICCR hardly has enough money for gas, let alone airplane rent. But it turned out that the media were gun-shy; they had been burned by their coverage of the previous nonevents and were not going to do anything further on the story. This was okay, since it would mean we could carry out an investigation without the cameras following us around, as in other years.

I phoned the editor of the Strathclair-area newspaper, Greg Nesbitt, and got more details about the cases. There were said to be seven separate sites, plus a handful of UFO sightings. Since they had been found, at least two or three hundred persons had visited the formations. Well, so much for finding any useful clues. But because of the unique shapes involved, we still felt it was worth a look. I told Greg that a NAICCR team would be out the next day.

The Ipswich site

On Tuesday at around 8 a.m., Roy Bauer, Guy Westcott, and I left Winnipeg for Strathclair. The town is about 275 kilometers northwest of Winnipeg, and it took us exactly four hours to reach the area. We had been told that one of the sites was clearly visible from the highway, but we didn't notice it on our way in. We arrived in the town of Shoal Lake, where we were to meet Greg, at around noon.

Greg was going to be our guide, but we had an hour to kill before he was ready to lead us out. So, being hard-working investigators, we went to the local bar. During lunch we made casual inquiries about the crop circles. Everyone had at least heard of them, and some persons admitted they had visited the sites. We went to the RCMP office and asked about official reports. The commanding officer concealed his amusement only barely. He joked that he had aliens in a jail cell. He acknowledged, however, that his office had taken calls about bright lights that weekend.

We met Greg around 1 p.m. in his print shop cum newspaper office. He grabbed a tape recorder, and we headed for our vehicles. This was big news. Not only had the aliens landed, but investigators had come all the way from the "big city" to see them.

Greg led us back down the highway to a patch of field halfway between Shoal Lake and Strathclair, just outside a hamlet named Ipswich. (It was interesting how the first crop formation in the area was at a site named for a British city.) We had missed it because from the road the site looked just like a patch of lodging. We had seen many such patches on the drive out and in fact had stopped to examine one closely.

But this wasn't lodging. Once we were led in on the well-trodden path, the shape of the formation became quite clear. Slightly elliptical, the site had diameter axes of 26 and 24.5 feet. On a northeasterly heading of 65 degrees, an arrow protruded away from the crop circle, giving the effect of the symbol for Mars, or male. The wheat was about four feet tall outside the formation and was neatly bent away from the circle inside the arrow, and toward its end points. The width of the arrow corridor was about 28 inches. While we measured, took samples and photos, two truckloads of visitors arrived. They tramped through the neatly woven grain and added to the disturbed state of the site.

The site was only 40 feet away from the nearest access road, and about 100 feet from the highway. It had been found on Saturday, August 16, by the owner of the land and reported to the media the following day. By that time word had already spread. Once the circle news had got out, a woman reported that she had seen a UFO over the field on Friday evening. She had been driving from Shoal Lake to Ipswich and was passing the field when she observed a dark object with two "headlights" and a flashing "tail light." The UFO moved slowly over the field at an estimated height of a telephone pole and about 250 feet from the witness. After a minute or so, it moved out of sight behind some trees. Two other persons driving along the highway also glimpsed the object before it disappeared.

The Strathclair site

After we had finished our work at the Ipswich site, Greg led us to the next site, nearer Strathclair. This formation was visible from the highway, situated on a slight hill so that it was visible to eastbound travelers. It, too, was a Mars symbol. This time the main circle was perfectly round, about 24 feet in diameter. The arrow was thicker than the one at Ipswich and pointed on a bearing of 120 degrees, away from the highway.

Guy, Roy, and I began musing about how one would go about making such a formation. Greg remarked on how skeptical we seemed to be. After all, wasn't it obvious that only aliens could have made the formation? He said one of the first persons on the scene had found a "dinosaur footprint" at the point of the arrow; it had been suggested that the arrow could have been made by a ramp extended from the landed, circular UFO. Of course, the numerous visitors to the site had eradicated any sign of the print.

I thought about the arguments that were raging on the other side of the Atlantic, one of which concerned whether or not it was possible to hoax a crop formation. On impulse I sat down abruptly in the field. I was completely out of view of my colleagues a few feet away. "Let's try making a circle," I offered. Greg was doubtful. No human could make such a formation, surely.

I looked at the wheat closely. It was planted in neat rows about four inches apart. I got up and walked about 30 feet away from the site, carefully stepping between two rows. I looked back. There was no sign of my entry. I began walking in what I thought was a circle, met my own path, and started spiraling inward. Roy joined me, and we performed a *triticale pas de deux,* trampling the wheat in a circle 20 feet in diameter. In five minutes we had made a fair copy of the "real" circle. Stems stuck up here and there where we had missed them, and we did some touch-ups. I was surprised to find that our effort was almost exactly circular.

Greg and Guy compared our handiwork with the "real" site and declared it a reasonable facsimile. ("Maybe someone could have made it," Greg mumbled.) I bent down to look at the newly trampled wheat and was greatly surprised. One of the points of contention in debates over "real" and hoaxed British circles is that wheat stems in "real" circles are bent, not broken. When one crushes wheat underfoot while walking in a field, it is assumed that the wheat stems would show numerous kinks and breakage. Virtually none of the wheat in our new crop circle was broken. Somehow the stems were neatly bent over in a counterclockwise direction, swirled into the center, and showing no evidence of having been trodden upon.

I never intended to show that hoaxers had made the formation this way. Indeed, I would expect that there would have been some basic tools used instead of one's own feet. But this formation had been made a few days after a full moon, and the wheat was tall enough to afford cover if a car had chanced to pass on the highway.

There were still a few other questions about the formation, though; the hoax theory wasn't fleshed out enough to my satisfaction. What was the motive? How was it done, really? Why would anyone bother? And what about the UFO sightings?

Other sites

We headed for the other sites. They were all approximately three miles south of the main highway, along a farm road. Two were directly across a road from one another. As we drove up, we saw that some boys were standing in front of a formation, wielding a hand-painted sign. As we walked over, it became readable. A LOONEY A LOOK, it said. ("Looney" is a Canadian slang term for a dollar coin. The name comes from the image of a swimming loon on one side.)

The boys turned out to be a gold mine of information. Contrary to what we had been told earlier, this particular formation (another arrowed circle) had appeared over a week before. The one across the road had appeared first, a week before that. After the second had been found, the boys had thought to make a ringlike path around the whole formation so that visitors could examine the site without disturbing it. Unfortunately their idea didn't work, and what's more, the ring had been assumed to be part of the original formation.

The arrow from this circle pointed on a bearing of 260 degrees. When we later plotted all the formations on a map, we were disappointed to discover that the directions indicated by the arrows didn't converge. Furthermore, none of the arrows pointed toward a significant local feature such as a native midden, burial mound, mountain, or New Age mystic site.

The fifth site was clearly lodging. Because it was only a mile from the two nearest formations, however, many people had visited it. While we were there, more gawkers came by, and we asked them about other sites. We were given directions to other fields where formations were said to have been found, but we were unable to verify any others.

Digesting the data

On the drive back to Winnipeg, we stopped in at a TV station in Brandon. The news director told us of another circle site in the area. Since it was already late, we decided to ask another NAICCR rep, Jeff Harland, to investigate. He lives in Brandon and had investigated some UGMs in the area a few years ago. We dropped by his house (by some remarkable timing) exactly at dinnertime and were graciously invited for supper. During the meal we compared notes and swapped ideas about the crop-circle scene. We drew up some maps of the formations and talked for hours about our findings.

We learned that a TV special on British crop circles had been aired on the Friday night that the Ipswich circle was probably made. It could be that someone got the idea to hoax a circle from that show; but then, two circles were found before the show was aired. Other than that program, the media had paid little attention to crop circles. There was no national or international coverage of the North American circles during the summer, and the media were staying away from the British formations in droves.

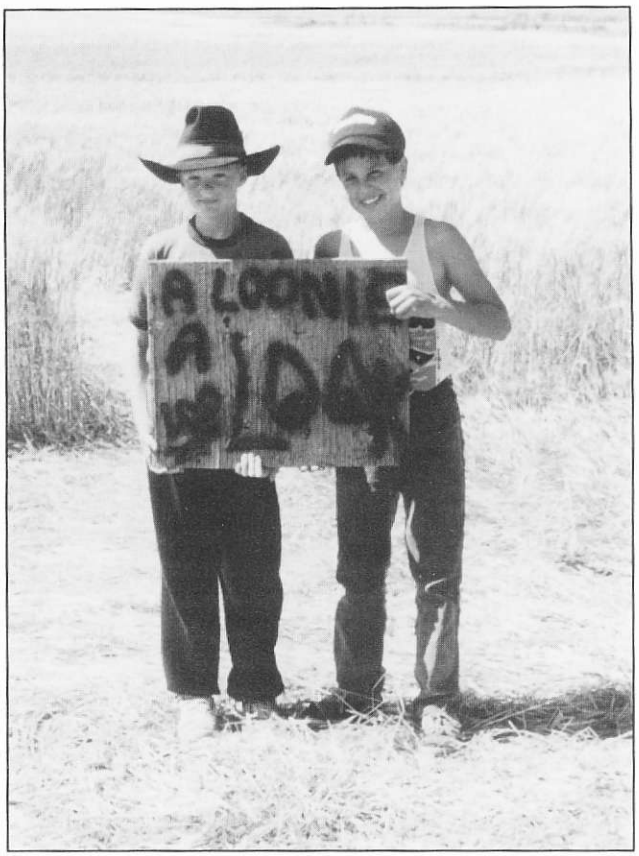


Figure 1. Boys exhibiting free enterprise at Strathclair.

We had taken both VHF and AM/FM radios into the formations. We heard no interference. No magnetic anomaly deflected a compass. A tape recorder worked fine, and no beepings or strange signals sounded from the tape. Animals casually entered the sites, and insects abounded. None of us felt any bad vibes, unlike some circle investigators at other formations. All of these effects were checked because some cerealogists insist that anomalous phenomena plague such sites. Apart from the fact that they were there, there was nothing particularly unusual about the sites.

The wheat samples we collected will be sent to various researchers for testing. Now that cerealogists have finally conceded that spagyrical analysis (the "tests" that showed a change in the "crystalline structure" of the plant cells) is spurious and unscientific, and the supposed radionuclides found in crop circles have been shown to be glitches in the data, the only remaining anomalous effects associated with crop circles are the growth studies done by W. C. Levengood at the Pinelands Biophysical Labs. He claims that wheat from crop circles grows more readily than control samples. This is easily enough checked, since we now have more seed samples. Of course these will be double-blind tests.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Since our expedition to the Strathclair formation, we have kept abreast of the British scene and read with interest the reports of investigations by the Project Argus group. North America has had only one complex crop-circle formation, and it was distinctly different from the British experience. My biggest concern with the British circle scene was the overabundance of formations in southern England compared with the rest of the world. Why does Britain have so many crop circles, and why do they look as they do?

Figure 2. Just along Strathclair #3 looking along arrow site line.

My correspondence with other researchers informs me that between 50 and 75 percent of all British formations are suspected to be hoaxes. I would suggest that the actual fraction is much higher—probably around 90 percent. Either way, there is no question that the British data are badly contaminated. What is needed is a comprehensive list of the British sites with indications of which ones are likely or proven hoaxes. People are delving into mystical philosophy and Gaiean premonitions without first sorting out the "good" data from the "bad" data, whatever the two sets may be. (Paul Fuller, editor of *The Crop Watcher*, has just reported that many "expert" cerealogists have grudgingly begun considering the fact that most, if not all, crop-circle formations are likely hoaxes.)

So far in 1992, fewer than two dozen North American UGM sites have been investigated. Despite low media coverage and a number of hoaxers' admissions, about 200 sites have been found in Britain this year. What gives? The infamous circle hoaxers Doug and Dave probably made fewer than 10 formations, notwithstanding their earlier claims which the public accepted uncritically. Two NAICCR investigators caught a hoaxer here in Manitoba. Big deal. We know that crop circles can be hoaxed and that cerealogy "experts" cannot tell a "real" circle from a hoaxed one. Why haven't the circles gone away? And a better question: why is there still so much interest in these particular UGMs?

Cerealogy has attracted at least as many loonies as ufology, unfortunately. We seem to be looking at another sociological phenomenon, perhaps a reaction to our confused technological age. I'm not particularly convinced that crop circles are alien hieroglyphics, plasma-vortex traces, or patches left by mating hedgehogs. Actually I'm more fascinated by those who think that there is enough evidence to adhere to a certain theory.

So with that, at least until I get my next phone call, I will lie back and reflect on all this circular reasoning. Pun intended. Again. ✦

ETH—*continued from page 8*

seeing the original critters themselves. And perhaps the species still spawns the odd risk-taker even given their vast potential ages.

CONCLUSION

There is no way to fill in all the gaps in this sort of scenario, nor is there need to. Since it is just another post-hoc speculation, what was the point? The point, well made or not, is that people, usually ignorant of what they are talking about, are continually making statements about why UFOs can't be ET manifestations. Many of these "authorities" slop over into rather strong language, giving the impression that their views are knowledgeable and thoughtful and verge on the negative absolute.

The scenario sketched in this article is not meant to prove anything. It is rather to indicate how easy it is to tinker together an ET-based idea which is at least as plausible as the simplistic negatives we have been hearing. And, I surmise, it is based on more serious consideration of our own science and the UFO experience.

Is this what's happening? I make no claims. I'm sure that we can conjure up several other ET scenarios at least in variants of detail. Other paranormal and X-factor theories are doubtless possible. The bottom line is this:

Negativity is fine when stated with some humility. Absolutist negativity is rarely if ever appropriate. The same exact comments go for the positive side. If all the anti-ET commentaries of recent times were stated with civility, candor, and modesty, this article would not have to be written. They haven't been. Let us therefore ignore their unhelpful demeanors and get on with our research. ✦

AUSTRALIAN ABDUCTION RESEARCH 1990-1992

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

Keith Basterfield, who writes regularly for *IUR*, heads the research division of UFO Research Australia, a network of most of the serious researchers in that country.

Previous articles in *IUR* (July/August 1989, May/June 1990) have described research into the abduction experience in Australia up to 1990. What has happened since then?

Researchers have been quietly working with a limited number of individuals who have come forward during this time to relate their abduction experiences. I am aware of details of five cases from this period. Low numbers compared to the United States, but there may be others which have not been documented to date and thus have escaped my attention. This article will present details of these five events so that readers may compare and contrast them with what is being reported elsewhere in the world.

NIGEL

The first concerns a 27-year-old male who initially spoke to a friend of mine with an interest in the subject. Nigel was looking for someone with whom to talk about a life-long set of experiences which involved apparent paranormal and abductionlike events. An interview was conducted on May 28, 1990, by two UFO Research Australia (UFORA) representatives: Julia Elsbeth and me.

In 1974, when he was 10 or 11 years old, Nigel awoke to see something standing in the middle of the room. There was a terrible sense of "presence," and he found he was unable to look directly at it. He tried to move but experienced a sensation like trying to run through glue—very much like a dream in which you can't run away. He would have dismissed it as a dream but for the fact that when he could move and the presence had gone, he went outside to see what looked like a "comet" streak across the sky over his house.

Later, sometime in 1987, Nigel was in bed nodding off to sleep. Suddenly he was wide awake but unable to open his eyes, nor could he move anything else. He felt something being pushed into a vein in his arm. He tried, at first without success, to move his body. Eventually, when he was able to move, he found a hole in his arm with blood coming out of it. Badly frightened, he got up and checked the house but detected nothing unusual in the rooms.

His immediate thought was that it may have been a "spectral intrusion." He had been reading a book about the paranormal. He retrieved a crucifix and placed it around his neck.

Later he had just fallen back to sleep when the same thing happened again. Something was being pushed into his arm. He finally got his body to move just in time to see the bedroom door slamming. With his heart racing he checked the house for a second time but again uncovered nothing to account for the event. Perhaps understandably, Nigel did not sleep the rest of the night.

One week later, while watching the *Today* show on television, he saw Whitley Strieber on the show and was amazed when Strieber spoke of his experiences. Nigel thought he might have had a similar experience.

A second episode occurred to him in 1987. Again he lay in bed paralyzed. Something or someone lifted the bed clothes off him. He then felt as if a vacuum cleaner were sucking thoughts out of his head.

Nigel also recalled some paranormal episodes. In 1973, when his brother was four years old, a tricycle ran around, fell over, then ran around again, all by itself.

On an unrecalled date, down in Tasmania, as he went to put on the electric blanket, he was "picked up and thrown" on to his bed by something he did not see. A strong force held him there on the bed, and he lost consciousness.

The interview we conducted reassured Nigel that other persons had undergone these types of experiences. His anxiety, much in evidence at the beginning of the interview, had declined by the time we concluded our discussion. All of his recollections were conscious ones; no regression was used.

ANDREW G.

My colleague Bill Chalker of Sydney published an article in the Australian magazine *Nature and Health* about shamanism and abductions. He urged readers who had had experiences to contact him. One who did was a man Chalker calls Andrew G., who consciously recalled at least two episodes.

One night when he was four years old, he was drifting off to sleep when he became aware of a "man" standing by his bed. Terrified, he called to his mother, who came and reassured him that no one was there. At 16 he had something like a panic or "Old Hag" attack.

Regression by a clinical psychologist took him to his experience as a four-year-old and uncovered what appeared to be memories of an "operation." He recalled the involvement of three figures, glowing, small, and fierce, with thin, long faces. They had no chin and two small openings for a nose; the eyes were the largest feature on the face. The eyes were almond in shape and brown in color. All three figures were the same. They had hands like a child's, thin and small, but with something like webbing between the fingers.

Adrian

In February 1991 Julia Elsbeth introduced me to a mutual friend, Adrian, who had an unusual conscious recollection from about 1970, when he was 15 years old and living in Sydney.

One night he noticed a red-orange glow in the bush close to his home. He took his dog with him to investigate. On approaching, he saw a glow illuminating the area. His dog became excited and dashed into the bush. There next appears to be a discontinuity in his physical and emotional reactions—an apparent period of missing time. He next recalled seeing an owl fly past him, and he could hear his own internal thought: "There's something I should remember." Strangely, he felt comfortable with this, lost interest in the glow, and returned home.

He had reservations about the use of regression at our first interview, but this was finally undertaken at his request in August and September 1992. A psychologist provided his services.

Under regression Adrian recalled calling his dog to go and investigate an unusual orange-red glow in the bush adjacent to a row of houses near his. It was about 9 p.m. when he walked along the side of the properties, flashlight in hand and dog by his side. There was enough light so see where he was going without using the flashlight.

He could see that the source of the light was low to the ground. He got scared and thought of going home. The bushes were moving as if a wind machine from the movies were behind them, making them shake. He sensed that something was coming toward him.

Fragments of previously inaccessible memory were then recalled. He told of experiencing a feeling almost as if claws were grasping both of his arms just below the biceps. He then had vague images of being taken to a "ship" of some kind. He recalls struggling outside the ship. Then somehow he was inside lying on his back, looking upward at a black and white ceiling.

He recalls a face, and someone stuck a tube down his throat to his stomach. The tube felt alive and slimy. Fragments of memory of being taken in a tub of pink fluid emerged, and of being taken out of the fluid by squat blue beings.

During the same session he recalled, as a young child, encounters with other beings. These also came out as memory fragments.

A Melbourne woman

In April 1991 a married Melbourne woman related a series of events extending back some 14 months from that time. These included her six-year-old son's report that five or six little men entered his bedroom and shone a "torch" (flashlight to North American readers) at him. He felt paralyzed. While in this state, he "heard" (via telepathy) the intruders tell him they would not hurt him. As they examined him, they pushed something up his nose. He described them as having gray skin, big heads, and big black eyes.

The woman recalled an episode in which something tried to pull her out of bed during the night. She also remembered an incident at age seven—she thought of it as a dream—in which three "pixies" entered her room and abducted her.

In 1991 she was regressed. According to the testimony that emerged, six beings entered her bedroom and took her away to a room somewhere. Following an examination, they pushed something up her nose. She was told she had been chosen for some task, not revealed to her yet. She did not feel they were going to hurt her. She was floated back home and into her bed. On waking up, she decided the incident had been a dream.

At age 36, in 1991, beings again came to her bedroom and tried to take her away, but she refused to go. Shortly after this, while she lay in bed with her husband, three small beings returned. They scraped both her and her husband with a silver "knife." They said this would be the last time for a while.

At some juncture the beings told her she is to spread knowledge when they are ready. They also said the device up her nose was intended to keep track of her.

Julian and Lydia

May 1991 brought a telephone call from an Adelaide couple who wanted to talk about an event from 1989. I interviewed them at that stage, but despite their wish to proceed with a regression, I was unable to arrange one until May 1992. The following is a summary taken from several interviews conducted by Peter Jones and me.

One Saturday in July 1989 a married couple, Julian and Lydia, together with their two children, drove home to Adelaide from their other property in the southeast of South Australia. The weather was stormy, windy with rain. They took the inland route as opposed to the coastal route.

Julian had the impression that they were being "watched" during the trip, a feeling he had experienced before when he used to live in Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

They traveled most of the afternoon and arrived home about 7 p.m. After watching a movie Lydia went to bed about 11. Julian followed suit half an hour later.

Outside it continued to storm. Julian felt restless as he lay in bed. There was a metallic sound outside the window, followed by a low-pitched humming noise. He put it down

to a train; a train line runs near the house. Lydia also heard the metallic noises. She wondered if someone were trying to break into their car. A scraping sound was also heard.

Lydia recalls that something came into the room and stood in their bedroom doorway. It was short, skinny, and fragile-looking. Its head was oval in shape and bigger in proportion to ours. Teardrop-shaped eyes were big and black. It had no hair, no ears, no visible nose, a slit mouth with no lips. It was gray in color and associated with a green-white light. She felt the entity was curious and wanted to investigate. The being communicated with her telepathically and urged her not to be afraid. She felt it wanted to look at their bodies. She knew Julian was still in bed, lying there, she thinks, with his eyes open. She then drifted off to sleep.

At this stage Julian thought Lydia was asleep, but then he thought she said, "Julian, don't worry. Everything will be all right. Just do as they say, and there'll be no problems. Do as they say." Julian did not understand what she was talking about.

Next Julian floated from his bed, face up and feet first. The high-pitched noise ceased at this point. He saw lights in the house down the pitch-black hallway. He noticed a being inside the house. Taller than Julian, it had a normal-shaped head. Julian was looking at it from the back. The body build was stocky. There was a white-green glow around the body. "Something" told Julian that the being had an interest in his son. Julian then saw his son in the arms of the being. Alarmed, Julian attempted to struggle.

His next recollection was of finding himself in a dark "room" or "space." He was paralyzed and cold. He was lying on a flat, cold, black, hard table. All was silent. He felt no sensations apart from his paralysis. He thinks there were odors but cannot recall them.

Three entities were present, one on either side of his head and one behind his head. He was lying on his back. The aliens were staring at him, stooping and looking at him. All were gazing directly into Julian's eyes. The three were identical in appearance.

They seemed 125cm tall. Their hairless heads were pumpkin-shaped, with curved wrap-around, teardrop-shaped, deep black eyes apparently devoid of whites or irises. The nose was small, as was the mouth. The body was of a gray-white color. Julian thought they were wearing clothes the same color as their skin. He noted no body joints or muscles.

The entities were interested in Julian's head. He had the impression that the aliens harbored no malice toward him. Next thing he recalls is floating again back to bed and sleep.

In the morning both Lydia and Julian felt "strange." Julian said he felt giddy and disoriented as if his head had been on a long flight. He later checked his body but spotted nothing out of the ordinary. His energy was at a normal level, but he sensed that something had interrupted his sleep.

She felt as if she had been in a trance.

Julian related what he had experienced to Lydia. When he asked her how she was feeling, she replied that she felt something had disrupted the night. She had some vague impressions of activity happening down the hallway, down by the children's bedrooms. She thought she had been taken somewhere because she had some memory of lying flat on a table while people looked at her. She sensed that in some way she had been experimented on, then drifted back to bed. She experienced no paralysis and had no recall of Julian's having left the bed.

Afterwards Julian felt intensely disturbed. But now, three years later, the couple regard themselves as healers and are concerned about the direction of the world. They are now at peace with themselves over the incident.

External influences

During the two-year period under discussion, the topic of abductions gained a moderate amount of publicity within this country, but still nothing like the media exposure in the United Kingdom or the United States. The two highlights were an international conference and a miniseries. In September 1991 a conference featured a number of overseas speakers who mentioned, among other things, abduction cases. The conference attracted a fair degree of publicity in the press and on radio and television over a two-week period.

Later, July 1992 saw the playing of the miniseries *Intruders*, based on Budd Hopkins' book of the same title. The show went out in peak viewing time. Interestingly, writing about this some two months later and after checking with associates of the UFORA network, we have yet to hear of one abduction case which has emerged as a result of the abductee's watching the miniseries. This is, I understand, in contrast to what happened in the United States after the show.

The film *Communion*, which was originally to have had its world premier in Australia, made it here in video form only. It hit the best-seller lists here in Adelaide at number three for one week, then nose-dived out of sight.

Are we getting large numbers of health professionals interested in researching the subject? The short answer is no. The situation in this regard remains the same as it was when the 1990 *IUR* article was written. Only two or three professionals in the entire country are working with UFO researchers.

UFORA will continue its work in assisting abduction experiencers and recording the results of its investigations.

I may be contacted at Box 302, Modbury North, South Australia 5092, Australia. ✦

For more on UFO research in Australia, read (or re-read), the author's article in Volume 2 of the ***Journal of UFO Studies,*** new series (1990), coauthored by Vladimir and Pony Godic, and Mark Rodeghier. The issue is available ($15.00 U.S., $16.50 overseas and Canada), from CUFOS, 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659.

WHY THE PRESS ACTS THAT WAY

BY DON BERLINER

Don Berliner, an aviation journalist, is co-author, with Stanton T. Friedman, of *Crash at Corona: The U.S. Military Retrieval and Cover-up of a UFO*, published in August by Paragon Press.

During 1990 reports poured in of large unidentified craft which were tracked on military radar and chased by jet fighters in the Soviet Union and Belgium. Government officials in both countries acknowledged the legitimacy of the observations and freely admitted that the events baffled them. But in the United States the news coverage of these potentially significant stories was but a small fraction of that accorded the silly-sounding report of a "giant, three-eyed alien" in a Russian park in late 1989. Why the disparity in treatment?

For the entire 40-plus-year history of unidentified flying objects, the American press has failed to treat the subject with the seriousness that the data and the reputations of the witnesses would demand if the subject were something other than UFOs. Is the press blind, or are those who are convinced of the strength of the UFO evidence seriously overstating their case, which is based on the hundreds of UFO reports that have survived scientific analysis?

There are at least eight reasons why the press views UFOs as it does. A review of them may help to place things in perspective.

LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION SOURCES

There is currently no widely-recognized source of dependable information on UFOs. When the government closed down Project Blue Book in 1969, it stopped supplying information to the press and the public. A few years later, when the private, Washington-based National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena faded away, there was no longer a major nongovernmental source of UFO information.

TABLOID SENSATIONALISM

Sadly, the primary sources of UFO information for the general public are the supermarket tabloid newspapers and their television equivalents which shout the most preposterous claims and show no concern for their validity. Even those who would not dream of buying such newspapers or watching such television shows are influenced by them. If most UFO news comes from such disreputable sources, then it is easy to conclude that the subject itself must be disreputable. Even those who have their own reasons for accepting some UFO information (such as a personal sighting, or one by a relative or close friend) are discouraged from discussing the subject, lest their judgment or even sanity be questioned. This applies as well to members of the legitimate press who fear being condemned by association. A professional journalist is just as subject to fear of ridicule as the average person, though the resulting damage may extend beyond the usual ribbing to the questioning of professional standards.

UFO BELIEVERS

Many of those who profess support for the idea that UFOs are not only real but extraterrestrial do great harm to the field. In accepting UFO reports without question, they display thoroughly unscientific behavior and provide excellent examples for those who insist there is no scientific basis for UFOs. By accepting theories of UFO nature, origins, and even purpose without first heeding the evidence, these flying-saucer fans strongly suggest that all those who support the concept of UFO reality are motivated primarily by wishful thinking.

In addition to men and women whose juvenile eagerness leads to insupportable conclusions, there are others who recite and lecture about the most outlandish themes and schemes for whatever fame, if not fortune, is available. By carefully selecting the data and then ignoring the great gulf between far-fetched theory and accepted scientific principle, they lead the unsuspecting reader or listener away from reality and into a science-fiction realm filled with golden-haired Venusians oozing truth, beauty, and salvation.

THE ANTI-UFO LOBBY

One point of view in the UFO controversy is that if there were any substance to the matter, it would have been detected first by the scientific community. Since that does not appear to have happened, it must be because UFOs are not real. Otherwise, the discovery of their reality and nature by "amateurs" would indicate a terribly embarrassing failure by professional scientists. Since much of our culture is based on the ability of trained professionals to make the important discoveries, such incompetence would be unacceptable.

To promote the idea that "UFOs can't possibly be real," many otherwise objective scientists and their supporters have organized to convince the world that there is a plot

John Keasler

UFOs = Unverified Foolhardy Opinions

Moths May Explain UFO Sightings

UFO watchers milking saucer craze for thrills

Those ain't onions over Vidalia, says UFO group

afoot to subvert rational thought, on the part of nefarious persons who are promoting all manner of silliness as science. These protectors of scientific purity lump together a wide range of unusual topics ranging from New Age superstitions such as astrology, ghosts, and crystal worship, to such well-supported, nuts-and-bolts subjects as UFOs. To those who don't know the difference—most of their audience—it is not hard to believe that all fringe subjects are equally nonsensical.

This provides a convenient excuse for those who prefer to adopt a comfortable position of disinterest rather than the more painful one of reflection and investigation which may in the end challenge the standard prejudices and land them in the ranks of those they have long derided.

Official negavitism

From the beginning of the U.S. government's involvement with UFOs in the summer of 1947, its true interest has been locked deep in security; only in the past few years have long-classified documents been acquired and some of the official activity of the 1940s been learned. It is now clear that UFOs have long been taken much more seriously than anyone would guess if he had access only to official news releases.

While the government kept its true views stamped Top Secret, it openly scoffed at UFOs and those who reported them, including its own people, many of whom were highly trained, responsible combat pilots. The official investigations—Projects Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book—became famous for their negative public position. Statistics and press releases concentrated on the alleged lack of substance and consistency in UFO reports, while carefully ignoring the growing collection of admittedly unexplainable reports. To the end in 1969, the official "experts" brazenly claimed that maneuvering, disc-shaped devices were "probable aircraft" and that metallic-looking things that hovered and then streaked away were merely balloons.

When the long-secret UFO case files were made available to the public in 1976 (in censored form), it became obvious that the conclusions failed to fit the facts. In addition to almost 600 reports permanently listed as "unknown," there were hundreds more whose conclusions were seriously at odds with their content. An analysis of just the officially unknown cases reveals distinct patterns of UFO appearance and behavior, rather than the hodge-podge of vague foolishness that official statements implied. Any objective study of this information would almost surely lead to the conclusion that UFOs are certainly baffling, probably real, and possibly extraterrestrial, just as early government reports said. "The phenomenon is something real, and not visionary or fictitious," Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, Air Materiel Command, wrote on September 23, 1947.

Since the end of Project Blue Book, in 1969, the government has insisted that it has neither involvement nor interest in UFOS. But the internal memo that led directly to the closing of the official investigation states clearly "reports of UFOs which could affect national security . . . should continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures designed for this purpose," as Brig. Gen. C. H. Bolender, the Air Force's Deputy Director of Development, wrote on October 20, 1969.

Scientists' rejection

Few recognized scientists are willing to express their personal interest in UFOs in public due to the real or perceived risk of damage to their professional standing, because of ridicule from their peers. The principles of the scientific method notwithstanding, scientists are human and thus willing to be practical and compromise their obligation to examine all the evidence before passing judgment. Since few of their colleagues are willing to admit to serious interest in UFOs, they find it more comfortable to conceal their own interest. This, in turn, makes it appear that even fewer scientists find this subject worth pursuing.

From the early 1950s into the 1970s, a nationally known astrophysicist, Harvard University's Donald H. Menzel, campaigned to discourage scientists from taking UFOs seriously, by ridiculing those who claimed to have seen them. In three books he claimed to be able to explain all UFO sightings, including several of his own. His word was accepted without question by thousands of scientists, who presumed he had studied the subject more than they had.

No one bothered to check Menzel's work because of his reputation, or they would have discovered serious flaws in his reporting and reasoning. He "explained" UFO reports by ignoring whatever did not fit his conclusion. He made blanket statements that violated what has long been accepted in science, such as that a temperature inversion (the cause of a mirage) can shift a ground image so dramatically that it appears to be high in the sky. In truth, such shifts cannot exceed 10 degrees in the earth's atmosphere. His unchallenged statements are still used by those who need an excuse to justify their lack of action.

Ignorance of evidence

Another reason for the low level of press interest is its ignorance of the quality and quantity of the evidence supporting claims of UFO reality. This is primarily the fault of those who have the evidence but are unable or unwilling to make it available to the press in a form that can be understood and appreciated. The main categories of evidence:

(1) *Sighting reports*, as many as 100,000 of them since 1947. They may represent as many as 10 times that number, the great majority of which were never reported because the witnesses feared ridicule. Of those that have been reported, five to 10 percent have survived the efforts of experienced analysts to tie them to known phenomena, and thus are truly unexplained. A significant percentage of these have come from highly qualified observers: professional pilots, scientists, engineers, and so on. Studies of large groups of these particularly puzzling reports reveal patterns of appearance (simple geometric shapes, metallic color) and behavior (extreme speed in the atmosphere, silent hovering) that suggest a category of manufactured devices of radical nature and unknown origin.

(2) *Physical trace cases*. In hundreds of instances, evidence of the brief presence of a UFO has been found after its departure: impressions in the ground, residue, burn marks, broken tree limbs.

(3) *Photographs, films, and videotapes*. With the proliferation of high quality still and video cameras, the number of alleged UFO sightings recorded on film and tape has increased. The analysis of this type of evidence is costly and time consuming, and the few verified examples contain little information. The chances that this type of evidence will increase significantly seem good.

(4) *Radar/visual cases*. For decades there have been instances in which a UFO has been seen visually from the ground and/or air and at the same time tracked on radar from the ground and/or air. More than a dozen of these cases are among the unexplained reports in the Blue Book files in the National Archives, including some from the flurry of activity in Washington, D.C., in July 1952. Many cases in 1990 from Belgium and the USSR fit into this category.

(5) *Crash/retrievals*. There are well-documented examples of UFOs crashing and their remains being retrieved by the U.S. government, including New Mexico in 1947 and Pennsylvania in 1965. There are scores of witnesses, both ex-military and civilian, to the New Mexico sites, including several who handled the wreckage they describe as extremely unusual.

(6) *Government documents*. Several thousand pages of long-classified UFO-related documents from the Departments of Defense and State, the CIA, FBI, National Security Agency, and other intelligence-oriented agencies have been released during the past decade through the Freedom of Information Act. While most are little more than routine bureaucratic paperwork, some have shed light on the inner workings of official Washington (including proof that the CIA's interest extended many years beyond its 1953 weekend panel discussion). Contrary to the current official line, many agencies continue to spend time and money—in total secrecy—on a subject the government insists is of no consequence.

(7) *Foreign activity*. For decades other governments have deferred to the U.S. for their official UFO policies. Now, however, some are standing on their own: France, China, Russia, and Belgium. In the latter two recent flurries of sightings have been met with excellent cooperation between the military and civilian UFO investigators.

Frightening implications

Taking any UFO information seriously involves risks which may be too scary to contemplate. If some UFO reports are difficult to discount—such as those from professional pilots claiming to have seen, at close range, apparently manufactured craft having shapes and performance implying unfamiliar technology and even science—then the possibility that some of them may represent alien vehicles must be considered.

Even if the chances of the most puzzling UFO reports being alien activity are no more than one in 1000, that slim possibility cannot be ignored if one is to think scientifically. This, in turn, will lead directly to the consideration of the implications of encounter (tomorrow or in a future century) with intelligent nonhumans whose motives, let alone technology, must be entirely unknown to us. Such extreme ignorance has to be unsettling.

The methodical analysis of the implications of some new unknown usually leads to greater understanding and less fear. But in the case of hypothetical alien intrusion, the closer one looks at the possible impact, the more one becomes concerned for the reactions of mankind. All the major elements of society could be affected: economic, political, religious, military, educational. Once an individual starts thinking about the long-range impact of alien contact, other interests pale by comparison. Reporters who get this far into the UFO story risk losing their objectivity, for what is the point in rushing out to cover a house fire when there are developments on a cosmic scale waiting to be dealt with?

In the view of a columnist for the *Washington Post*, UFOs may thus constitute "too big a story." ✦

LETTERS

Tantamount to Communism?

To the editor:

In his editorial in the March/April issue of *IUR*, Jerome Clark claims that in my August 23, 1983, telephone conversation with Robert Mortenson of the University of Nebraska, "**Klass pronounced ufology virtually tantamount to Communism.**" (My dictionary defines "**tantamount**" as "**equivalent to.**")

Clark's editorial continues: "Speaking over the phone to an astonished University of Nebraska administrator, he declared that 'as a patriotic American I very much resent' ufologists' cover-up charges against the U.S. government. In making such charges, he reasoned (if that verb applies here), ufologists 'seek what the Soviet Union does—to convey to the public that our government cannot be trusted.'"

IUR readers deserve to know that Clark *intentionally omitted* the sentence preceding the one he quoted—which I supplied to him in 1983—in which I said: "**I emphasize to you that I am not, repeat not, suggesting that any of the people or any of the organizations** [involved in the conference] **are in any way affiliated with Communist Fronts or with the Soviet Union.**"

I challenge Clark to find anything in my four books dealing with UFOs or in my numerous published papers to substantiate his charge that I believe that "ufology is tantamount to Communism."

Philip J. Klass
Washington, D.C.

Jerome Clark responds:

Klass both misquotes me and misrepresents what I said about him.

First, the words he ascribes to me were written matter-of-factly in Roman, not frantically in bold, type. Second, if I had meant to write "Klass believes that ufologists consciously serve the interests of international Communism," I would have said so. No other reader could have misread my meaning as Klass does or, more likely, as Klass pretends to.

My point was simply this: In disputing official pronouncements, Klass contends, ufologists are equivalent to Communists in their effect, which is to undermine faith in the American government. ("Tantamount" means, according to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, "equivalent in value, significance, or effect.") Note, moreover, that to make his meaning perfectly clear, Klass explicitly made patriotism the issue, remarking that "as a patriotic citizen" —as opposed, presumably, to other citizens, such as the ufologists and the Communists to whom the former are tantamount—he deeply resented disbelief in Washington-certified versions of reality.

His final paragraph takes us to a new depth of balminess. Well, not exactly a *new* depth. Consider his October 5, 1987, "OPEN-LETTER CHALLENGE TO JEROME CLARK," which promises to donate $5000 to CUFOS if I can find in any of his "*published books or articles*" (Klass' italics, of course) an accusation that UFO cover-up theorists serve Soviet policy ends. Of course, he adds hastily, the offer "does *not* apply to my expression of personal opinion during a private telephone conversation" with Mortenson. I responded by stating the obvious—that I had never charged him with committing the sentiment to print—and added, "Amusingly, in making his 'challenge,' Klass seeks to exclude the very evidence that bears on the issue."

Klass wants to have it every way it can be had. In what he thought would be a private conversation, he likened ufologists to Communist agents. Then, as if ashamed or embarrassed when the rest of us learned about it, he threatened legal action against the university after the revelation surfaced. (He also threatened once to sue *Omni* when I mentioned the episode in an article in that magazine.) Since then, as if the proud, self-described "patriotic citizen," he defends and reaffirms the ufologist-Communist equivalence in personal correspondence (most recently to me in a November 26, 1991, letter). Meanwhile, portraying himself as the wounded victim of a vicious smear, he challenges critics to show where he has ever made the charge *in print*.

We can only conclude that Klass lacks the courage of his strange convictions.

Perceiving UFOs

To the editor:

It's unfortunate that you chose not to run the footnotes I provided for the article "The Invention of a Gulf Breeze UFO" (March/April *IUR*). Though the footnotes are now obsolete, I ask you to print the bibliography. In her "In Defense of Memory" (May/June *IUR*) Linda Kerth criticized me for not referencing current research, which was not in fact the case. Appearances suggested that the only material I read was by Elizabeth Loftus—wrong again.

Kerth says, "The experience of seeing a UFO certainly must rank as a '10' on the scale of unusual events of a lifetime." She seems to assume that all "UFOs" look like extraterrestrial craft. Certainly seeing something *truly* extraordinary is a 10. But the Huffords, whose sighting I discussed in my article, didn't even seem interested in what they saw that day. They did not discuss it as the time, spoke only briefly of it upon returning home, and then decided to forget about it. That's how important it was. It wasn't until three weeks later, when they saw Ed Walters' photo, that Art Hufford decided he and his wife had seen the same object. (See Hufford's "The Gulf Breeze Lights, Continued," January/February *IUR*).

According to Kerth, recent research indicates a possibility of two neural pathways, one visual, the other verbal, which process information separately. A visual event, "unless transformed into words, may never be accessible by words or by verbal interrogation." This visual information transformed into words has a higher potential for error. In the Hufford case the original event was visual, and the witnesses did not discuss what they saw at the time. But Kerth says that the discussion of an event may actually produce more errors. This seems to indicate that rehearsal does affect memory and postevent information is consequential.

Kerth faults Loftus' work on postevent information because of the "potential for cross-modality interference and . . . lack of proper retrieval 'environment' or cues." She states, "If the original information is visual . . . asking verbal questions later may actually introduce the very confusion one wishes to avoid, a kind of 'entrapment' or 'visual overshadowing.'" She goes on to say that the proper way to extract an "accurate memory of a visual experience must also be visual, not verbal forced-choice questionnaires." Forced-choide questionaries are, of course, the foundation of a MUFON investigation, which was what the Huffords were subjected to.

Let's consider retrieval cues and encoding. At the time of the event, the Huffords both thought what they saw was odd. Not odd enough to stop the car and get a better look, not odd enough to note at the time—but odd. In a telephone interview with Zan Overall, Art Hufford remarked that he "might" have used the term UFO to describe what he and his wife saw. So how did the Huffords encode the event? What were their retrieval cues? It could have been anything from "something odd" to "UFO." What did they really see that day? They could have actually seen a plane, balloon, or blimp, but because they did not get a good long look at it, they could have simply encoded the event as "odd" or "UFO." When the Walters photo appeared in the newspaper, their "odd" event fell into place.

Kerth brings up "flashbulb [FB] memories" and says the high rate of accuracy of these memories is due to "high arousal, the uniqueness of the event, and personal significance to the individual." In reading Hufford's report, one notices that the event *became* "unique," but it did not elicit a high state of arousal at the time, nor was it "personally signficant" to the persons involved.

Kerth also claims that "FB memories are considered to be almost total, indelible, permanent, and accurate." She neglects to mention the work of Ulric Neisser, who contends that FB memories, rather than being printed on the memory, are actually preserved through rehearsal and retelling after the event. Neisser also cites cases where, through independent investigation of the event, the FB memories turn out to be inaccurate.

Kerth makes the disclaimer at the outset that she is not concerned with the Hufford case or anything else related to the Gulf Breeze issue. But what good is research that is not applied? Neisser summed it up when he called for researchers to get out of the laboratory and start looking at memory function in everyday life.

Barbara Becker
St. Louis, Missouri

IUR's editors apologize to Barbara Becker for dropping her list of sources, especially since we used those that follow Linda Kerth's response. We ordinarily do not use footnotes or bibliographical material, preferring—in magazine, as opposed to journal, style—to incorporate source references into the text. When we received Kerth's manuscript, however, we concluded reluctantly that the inclusion of a bibliography was unavoidable. We also felt that such references should be made known to ufologists because the issues of perception, memory, and testimony are crucial to UFO study. If we had to do it over again, we would have used Becker's sources. On the principle that late is better than never, we include them here:

Anderson, Alf, et al. *Visual Aftereffects and the Individual as an Adaptive System: Psychological Investigations with Projected Aftereffects and Afterimages*. Lund, Gleery, 1972.

Bennet, B. *Human Memory: Theory and Data*. Potomac, MD: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers, 1974.

Bolles, Edmund Blair. *Remembering and Forgetting: An Inquiry into the Nature of Memory*. New York: Walker and Company, 1988.

Braddeley, Alan D. *Human Memory: Theory and Practice*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1990.

Brown, John, ed. *Recall and Recognition*. London: Wiley, 1976.

Cohen, Gillian. *Memory in the Real World*. London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers, 1989.

Cohen, Gillian, Michael Eysenck, and Martin E. LeVoi. *Memory: A Cognitive Approach*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1986.

Deutsch, Diana, and J. Anthony Deutsch, eds. *Short-Term Memory*. New York: Academic Press, 1975.

Eysenck, Michael W. *Human Memory: Theory, Research and Individual Differences*. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1977.

Farr, Marshall J. *The Long-Term Retention of Knowledge and Skills: A Cognitive and Instructional Perspective*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

Gregg, Vernon H. *Introduction to Human Memory*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986.

Harris, J. E., and P. E. Moore, eds. *Everyday Memory: Actions and Absent-Mindedness*. London: Academic Press, 1984.

Kennedy, Alan, and Alan Wilkes, eds. *Studies in Long-Term Memory*. London: Wiley, 1975.

Loftus, Elizabeth. *Memory: Surprising New Insights Into How We Remember and Why We Forget*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1980.

Logie, Robert H., and Michel Denis, eds. *Mental Images in Human Cognition*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Sciences

Publishers B.V., 1991.

Melton, Arthur W., and Edwin Martin, eds. *Coding Process in Human Memory*. Washington: V. H. Winston and Sons, Publishers, 1982.

Nilsson, Lars-Goran, ed. *Perspectives on Memory Research: Essays in Honor of Uppsala University's 500th Anniversary*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers, 1979.

Puff, Richard C., ed. *Handbook of Research Methods in Human Memory and Cognition*. New York: Academic Press, 1982.

Richardson, John T. E. *Mental Imagery and Human Memory*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1980.

Spear, Norman E. *The Processing of Memories: Forgetting and Retention*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1978.

Van der Heijden, A.H.C. *Short-Term Visual Information Forgetting*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981.

Weingartner, Herbert, and Elizabeth Parker, eds. *Memory Consolidation: Psychobiology of Cognition*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1984.

Wells, Gary, and Elizabeth Loftus, eds. *Eyewitness Testimony: Psychological Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Extraordinary ordinariness in Africa

To the editor:

I was most intrigued by Linda Kerth's "In Defense of Memory" (*IUR*, May/June). She writes of flashbulb memories "which are enhanced by a release of adrenalin [and] increased blood sugar levels . . . which have been shown to enhance visual memory."

For some years now I have realized that in Western contactee or abduction experiences, details are so clearly etched in the witness' mind that even 40 years after the event, recall is almost total. In fact, allowing the person time to evaluate his or her experience produces additional information even after such an extended time has elapsed. In a case near Cape Town, South Africa, in 1951, the engineer involved, in an interview last year, recalled for the first time that the metallic floor of the craft on which he stood had identations which formed a pattern. As he reviewed the incident with me (over a period of two years) the pattern became more and more detailed the longer he spoke of it—without any prodding from me.

With reference to "Western" memory, the unusualness of the incident would confirm Kerth's "factor of high arousal, the uniqueness of the event, and personal significance to the individual." On the other hand, the reactions of witnesses in rural areas of Zimbabwe (and, for that matter, other parts of Africa) are entirely different. The African perception of the "UFO" event is not understood as such but rather interpreted as ancestral ghosts or some punishment meted out by local *ngangas*, both events readily acceptable and not at all unusual. Thus the FB syndrome mentioned by Kerth is not really applicable here.

In one UFO event at La Rochelle, Zimbabwe, in 1980, within 12 months of the occurrence Clifford Muchena could not longer recall how many entities he had seen in front of a building, even though the number was only three and they were but three meters away from him. And Naison, the head gardener, though he remembered the event in reasonable detail, was vague when repeating the story. It wasn't such an important "ghost story" as some his brother could tell!

My point is that flashbulb memory is applicable culturally, because what is traumatic to one culture might be extraordinarily ordinary to another.

Cynthia Hind
Harare, Zimbabwe

More rounds in the circle game

To the editor:

Warren Betts correctly states ("Letters," September/October 1991 *IUR*) that I am not a meteorologist. I have never professed to be one. Nor is the vortex explanation for crop circles "my" theory. A whole group of meteorologists and atmospheric physicists, most notably *Journal of Meteorology* editor Terence Meaden, developed it carefully from August 1980 to date. More than a dozen experts from at least five major universities on three continents support it, including John Snow at Purdue University and one of the world's leading researchers into ball lightning, Prof. Yoshi Hiko Ohtuski of Japan. All have examined crop circles personally.

A gradual assimilation of these ideas over the past decade led me to support the concept. I did not come to this view overnight. I also thought that vortices (tornados or dust devils, for example) moved. Not necessarily the case, it turns out. I respectfully suggest that the Los Angeles meteorologists to whom Betts refers suspend judgment until they examine the theory in detail.

Debates on the theory have appeared in *Weather* and *New Scientist*, and scientists at American and Japanese laboratories have conducted no fewer than three comprehensive laboratory experiments of different types. Others have published a great many data on factors such as correlations between circles, hill slopes, and wind directions. In June 1990 I delivered a paper at a conference in Oxford where a number of prominent atmospheric scientists from around the world had convened to discuss their research. Souvenir Press published the proceedings as *Circles from the Sky*.

Aside from numerous articles and research papers in both the *Journal of Meteorology* (54 Frome Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LD, England) and *The Crop Watcher* (3 Selbourne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire S051 7TY, England), a number of books have

discussed the evidence Betts requires. My and Paul Fuller's *Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved* (1990) introduces the theory at a more general level, assessing strengths and weaknesses, and matches it against the observational database. Meaden put the idea between book covers in 1989, in *The Circles Effect and Its Mysteries*.

Jenny Randles
Stockport, Cheshire, England

To the editor:

This is in response to Paul Fuller's comments ("Letters," November/December 1991 *IUR*) regarding my criticism ("Letters," September/October) of Jenny Randles' "Nature's Crop Circles, Nature's UFOs" (May/June).

Contrary to Fuller's statement that I had dismissed the possibility that vortices form or cause crop circles, I simply said it is highly unlikely. Terence Meaden's atmospheric-vortex theory concerning descending vortex mechanisms is just that: a theory. A theory is not proof. And according to most meteorologists with whom I have spoken, it is highly unlikely that any vortex could achieve such a high grade of definition as with England's crop circles.

In my original letter to the editor, I intended to say simply that until any one theory can be proven scientifically, let's not insist that any one theory is correct and the only plausible one, as Randles attempts to do. As scientists we must continue to be skeptics. Right now, however, it appears that the vortices responsible for a great number of England's circles go by the names Doug Bower and Dave Chorley.

Warren Betts
Los Angeles, California

Of mysteries and messiahs

To the editor:

Though I have been mystified by the UFO phenomenon for 30 years, I'm at least as bemused by the attitudes of many who haunt ufology's meeting places, special events, lecture halls, magazines, and newsletters.

With the certitude and messianic fervor of the chosen, they expound their cherished beliefs. "I know there's an international conspiracy to keep us from the truth!" says one. "The revelations being channeled from the Arcturians are really illuminating!" gushes another. "We have star children!" writes a lady who claims communion with Venusians. "A powerful force from outside mankind is . . . driving us . . . into the abyss!" writes a European ufologist who insists the "evidence" is mounting. As many as "five million" of us may have been abducted by UFOs, suggests a best-selling author. UFOs are all a lot of "ionized air," avers a plasma-vortex theorist.

Meanwhile, in the midst of all the self-indulgence and egospeak, the ubiquitious Phil Klass, who apparently sees himself as a minister to the misguided, declaims, with equal acumen and assurance, that UFOs are all a lot of beguiling baloney and that, moreover, the very idea our government may be misinforming us about UFOs is unpatriotic.

What ever happened to the UFO mystery? Has it finally been solved by the disinformation lobby and the same species of people who, a few decades ago, would have called it "marsh gas"? Has it been levitated out of consensus reality by those who channel 2000-year-old entities, party with star people, have transcendental visions and access to revealed truths? Or has it become the tool and teething ring of New Age messiahs and missionaries, cultists and confabulators, hustlers and hoaxers in panting pursuit of emotional, psychological, economic, and other misbegotten agendas?

There is, still, a UFO mystery. Maybe it's about extraterrestrials. Maybe not. There is, still, an abduction mystery. Maybe the abductors are engaging in what *Flying Saucer Review* calls a "broad plan of genetic tinkering." Maybe not. Maybe crop circles are the work of fairies, or a sign of imminent earth changes, or clever hoaxes, or unidentified natural phenomena, or a combination thereof. And maybe not. Why must we have fixed and fatuous notions regarding such phenomena?

Someone once observed that just saying "I don't know," when we most assuredly do not, is the beginning of wisdom.

Jack M. Greenfield
New York, New York

Abduction debates

To the editor:

In the recent spate of media attention following the publication of David M. Jacobs' *Secret Life* and the airing of the CBS miniseries *Intruders*, we've seen repeated the frustrating and counterproductive talk show on which "alien-abduction expert" and "skeptic" (read "obligatory debunker") hiss and spit at each other, leaving the audience confused, little better informed, and probably much less interested. For those who desire to use talk-show time wisely rather than serving as time fillers for the hosts' own agendas, it would be useful to do the following:

(1) *Insist on structuring and limiting the debate.* Even if the debaters are carefully chosen, no fraction of an hour is long enough to cover the question that is generally and uusually loosely being addressed, "Are aliens really here?" Consider a much narrower topic relevant to your own work, for example, "Are alien abductions internally or externally generated?" "Is alien abduction a victiimzation or an opportunity?" "Does the alien-abduction phenomenon challenge our views of reality?" Or "Are the experiences of abductees in a category with historical sightings of fairies and religious visions?"

(2) *Name your own "skeptic."* Your choice of debate may depend on whom you are debating. The best candidates

are most likely persons with whom you have had good conversations or an intense, sparring correspondence; they are your colleagues who take a different view on a limited question like those above, and yet whose work you respect.

Thoughtfully framed public dialogue can both acquaint audiences with current issues and draw resources to the field. If we set the terms of the debate, we can expect that serious radio and television forums will respond.

Pam Kasey
Somerville, Massachusetts

To the editor:

I would like to reply to Keith Basterfield and Richard Hall, who remarked on my views in separate articles in May/June *IUR*.

In "Present at the Abduction" Basterfield takes me to task for making the seemingly intemperate statement that we know of no abduction accounts alleging such an event when in fact the "abductee" was in his or her normal environment. This is not an intemperate statement but a statement of logic and fact. The definition of "to be abducted" is "to be taken away or carried off against one's will." Either one is taken away forcibly and therefore abducted, or one is not taken away forcibly and not abducted. This is an irrefutable statement unless one wishes to indulge in theological arguments about the abduction of the soul or spirit and not the body.

When a person says that he is abducted and thorough, competent investigation, including hypnosis, reveals that he was taken away from his normal environment, then there is a good possibility that that person was abducted. If one says that he was abducted and investigation reveals that he remained in place, then that person was not abducted at that time.

In support of his argument, Basterfield presents the 1972-73 Maureen Puddy case, in which an Australian woman claimed to be in the middle of an "abduction" while two witnesses attested that she remained in her normal place throughout the event. But with the surface facts and according to the *prima facie* evidence, she was not abducted, regardless of her story. To say that this is an abduction event, and therefore to imply that everyone who is abducted is not necessarily taken away, is unjustified. Furthermore, the circumstances of the Puddy case do not necessarily provide a continuum escalating to the "abduction," as Basterfield believes. From my own research and experience, I would judge that the abduction(s), if indeed there ever was one, might just have as easily come about in the *previous* episodes, but only an investigation using hypnosis can tell us that.

If Puddy was not abducted in view of her witnesses, then what did happen? A number of different things could have happened. It is possible that she could have been abducted and the witnesses with her were rendered unconscious during the event. Upon being "switched on," they remembered only bits and pieces of what really happened, collapsed significant aspects of the abduction into a few seconds, and did not recall that Puddy was missing. It is possible that Puddy could have been experiencing a brief flashback in her mind from an abduction event which happened to her in the past. This can happen with persons who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. It is possible that Puddy could have become transiently delusional and her claims were induced by brain dysfunction. After all, there are people who claim to have been abducted who were not.

One thing is certain: Her claims are too sketchy and vague to match what we have learned about the abduction phenomenon. They do match screen memories, false memories, and delusions. They also match contactee stories in which individuals go into trancelike states and have contacts with space aliens. The point is that there are a variety of alternatives that could have accounted for her experiences.

Basterfield recently informed me that hypnosis can be performed in Australia only by a medical professional and that few medical professionals are interested in the abduction phenomenon. This, of course, is an enormously debilitating, if not a fatal, problem. Without the use of hypnosis by a competent medical professional who has a thorough knowledge of the abduction phenomenon, we stand little chance of finding out what happened to Puddy, if anything.

As it is, to say that she was abducted while remaining in place is simply unwarranted by the facts as Basterfield presents them. To resort to the CUFOS definition of abduction to validate that claim does violence to the intent of that definition as I understand it. The definition clearly states that the person must be taken from his or her environment. My conversations with Mark Rodeghier also make it clear that the definition assumes adequate and competent investigation of the claims.

My good friend Richard Hall takes issue with me ("NICAP and Lessons from the Past") for characterizing the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena as an organization that preferred high-level sightings as more credible than low-level ones. He says that this "reflects the APRO point of view." I had thought that these battles were long over, but as a historian I am fully aware of how much the past intrudes upon our present perceptions. Hall thinks that because I was a consultant for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, I somehow toed the APRO "line" in its earlier internecine struggle with NICAP.

The truth is this: I was a member of both organizations, and I joined both at the same time, as I remember, in 1969. J. Richard Greenwell, then scientific director of APRO, asked me to be a consultant in 1972. (I would have been just as pleased to have been a NICAP consultant had I been asked.) I stayed with the Lorenzens for two weeks in 1972 while doing research in their files for my dissertation, and it is then that I had my major contact with the views of Jim and Coral Lorenzen, APRO's founders and directors. Rather than have an APRO line about NICAP, which had begun its precipitous decline, the Lorenzens were extraordinarily and

singularly focused on Walt Andrus, director of their new rival organization, the Midwest (later Mutual) UFO Network, for their scorn. They rarely mentioned NICAP in a negative way. But one did not need to talk with the Lorenzens to understand that the two organizations had different goals.

Though NICAP did indeed investigate many low-level sightings and publish its results, the vast majority of the cases were high-level cases, as one can readily see in NICAP's *The UFO Evidence* (1964). The joke 20 years ago about NICAP was in currency for a reason. I used the word "preferred" for a specific reason, and I have never suggested that NICAP abandoned other investigations. But this does not mean that NICAP was any less a conservative organization. The times in which NICAP existed and the stated goals of the organization mandated conservativeness. Its goals were to convince the scientific community of the legitimacy of the phenomenon, to persuade the government of the Air Force's incompetence and cover-up in UFO investigations, and to investigate UFO sightings.

I believe that a more incredible phenomenon (which included CE3s) forced it to be at philosophical odds with itself. Confronted with a "wilder" phenomenon than it initially wanted, NICAP experienced tensions which militated against its conservativeness and credibility. The resulting ridicule from lower-level sightings and CE3s could easily weaken its goal to influence the public and the government. Thus NICAP's conservatiism stood the organization in good stead.

David M. Jacobs
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

CE2 SECRETS

To the editor:

I was greatly intrigued with Chris Rutkowski and John P. Timmerman's "Langenburg, 1974: A Classic Historical CE2 and a Crop Circle Progenitor?" (*IUR*, March/April), with its detailed description of Edwin Fuhr's observation of several craft leaving the field at the landing site. This is the first complete account I have ever seen. It came as a surprise to learn that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police issued orders that no samples were to be released without their authorization.

Maybe I can add some further information to this puzzle, though this information may not clarify matters.

On August 16, 1974, three small boys witnessed a disc-shaped object land in a sandpit close to their homes in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. For a full account, see my "Canadian Landing Case" in *MUFON UFO Journal*, April 1986. On investigating this case, I found residual material present in each of three "landing" indentations. Seeking answers, I contacted two local universities, both of which readily assisted in attempting to provide an analysis.

When I returned to one of these universities, I engaged in a lengthy conversation with a gentleman who I believe was in charge, or ran an x-ray spectrometer, at that time the only one of its kind in Canada. It was he who provided me with a printout of his findings concerning the Port Coquitlam samples. He also told me that during a casual conversation with another associate he had learned that soil samples from Langenburg were also being analyzed by his colleague. These presumably were provided by the RCMP from the Langenburg site. I was surprised.

When he later tried to compare notes on the material I had provided, he found his friend, previously willing to talk, had suddenly grown silent on the subject. Further pursuit of the topic revealed only that the samples and test results had "disappeared." No one knew where they were or had gone; more likely, they had been told not to discuss the Langenberg material. Same old story.

Unfortunately I can add no more information. At this late date it may well be worth Rutkowski's efforts to seek what now eludes him, under the Freedom of Information Act. If after 18 years the powers that be are still prepared not to cooperate, then a request to Ottawa will likely result in the discovery that no documentation is to be found.

Anyway, it's worth a try.

Graham Conway
Delta, British Columbia

UFO Encyclopedia

Jerome Clark's highly praised UFO series now available in affordable paperback editions!

What the critics have said about the UFO Encyclopedia:

"I have nothing but praise for both of these volumes. They are informative, comprehensive, soberly and objectively written, and a pleasure to read." —David A. Gotlib, M.D. *Bulletin of Anomalous Experience*

"This 300,000-word opus magnum is an absolute must for anyone with even the least bit of interest in the UFO phenomenon . . . . [The Emergence of a Phenomenon *is*] *well thought out and extensively researched . . . eminently readable"*—William L. Moore, *Focus*

"This mammoth work of the early history of the UFO phenomenon and UFO research has been well worth waiting for. The result is a magnificent feast of material for the serious ufologist." —Keith Basterfield, *UFO Research Australia*

vol 1 **UFOs in the 1980s**
vol 2 **The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning to 1959**
vol 3 **High Strangeness: The UFO Phenomenon 1960-1979**

$34 each or all 3 for $99!

To order, call:
(800) 234-1340

Omnigraphics, Inc.
Penobscot Bldg • Detroit, MI 48226